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IN THE CLAIMS:

1-22. (Cancelled)

23. (New) A production system including a production line being a series of a plurality of mounting apparatuses each of which has a parts supply unit, the production system comprising:

an NC management apparatus that is connected with each mounting apparatus via a local-area network and acquires and stores therefrom NC data used for operating each mounting apparatus; and

a scheduling apparatus that generates a production schedule from inputted production design data and transmits a generated production schedule to the NC management apparatus via the local-area network, wherein

the NC management apparatus generates, for each mounting apparatus, NC data including production parameters for each mounting apparatus that is required to perform production according to the production schedule, and obtains, for each mounting apparatus, differences between stored NC data that had been most recently stored prior to the generated NC data and generated NC data from the production schedule, and outputs the obtained differences, and the NC management apparatus further retrieves inspected NC data that was generated in past.

24. (New) The production system of Claim 23, wherein

the NC management apparatus strings the stored NC data.

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25. (New) The production system of Claim 24 including a plurality of production lines each of which is used to mount parts onto a circuit board, and
each production parameter includes a production line ID, a production equipment ID, an effective date, a parts number ID, and an update date.

26. (New) The production system of Claim 25 further comprising a display means that displays the differences obtained by the difference obtaining means.

27. (New) The production system of Claim 26, wherein
the NC data contains an NC program showing a parts mounting position, a parts arrangement program, a board program, and a parts library showing conditions for mounting parts.

28. (New) An NC data management method for use in a production system including a production line being a series of a plurality of mounting apparatuses, each of which has a parts supply unit and means for storing NC data of items previously produced on the production line including production parameters for each mounting apparatus, the NC data management method comprising:

a production schedule acquiring step for acquiring a production schedule, for operating the mounting apparatuses to provide an output of production items from the production line, from a scheduling apparatus;

an NC data acquiring step for acquiring NC data used for operating each mounting apparatus from the acquired production schedule including production parameters for each mounting apparatus; and

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a difference obtaining step for obtaining, in terms of each production parameter for each mounting apparatus, differences between an acquired production schedule of NC data and stored NC data of the same type of items.

29. (New) The NC data management method of Claim 28, wherein
the production schedule is generated for each version of each production item,
each production schedule showing a version of a production item,
the NC data acquiring step acquires NC data of a version, and
the difference obtaining step obtains differences between the production schedule and currently held NC data, in terms of each production parameter of a version of the currently held NC data.

30. (New) The NC data management method of Claim 29, wherein
the production line is used to mount parts onto a circuit board, and
each production parameter includes a production line ID, a production equipment ID, an effective date, a parts number ID, and an update date.

31. (New) The NC data management method of Claim 30 further comprising a display step that displays the differences obtained by the difference obtaining step.

32. (New) The NC data management method of Claim 31, wherein
the generated NC data contains an NC program showing a parts mounting position, a parts arrangement program, a board program, and a parts library showing conditions for mounting parts.